

Amendments In the Claims

Please cancel claims 2, 12-16, 19-22, 24, 29-32, 42-66, and 69-106. Please add the following new claims:

1-106. (Canceled)

107. (New) A method comprising:

providing a plurality of sockets, wherein

each socket has an associated connection and an associated security token;
receiving a first connection and a first security token;
comparing the first security token with the associated security tokens;
in response to said comparing, if none of the associated security tokens match the first
security token, creating a socket associated with the first connection and the first
security token.

108. (New) The method of Claim 107, wherein
a security token is one of a password, a network address, and a verification string.

109. (New) The method of Claim 107 further comprising:

in response to said comparing, if the first security token and a security token associated
with one of the plurality of sockets match, coupling the first connection to the
connection associated with the socket.

110. (New) The method of Claim 109 further comprising:

in response to said comparing, if none of the associated security tokens match the first
security token,
upon a determination that the first connection is not to be associated with a
socket, disconnecting the first connection.

111. (New) The method of Claim 109, wherein the coupling the first connection to the connection associated with the socket comprises:

relaying a data stream between the first connection and the connection associated with the socket.

112. (New) The method of Claim 109, wherein the coupling the first connection to the connection associated with the socket comprises:

creating a single connection comprising the first connection and the connection associated with the socket.

113. (New) The method of Claim 109 further comprising:

decoupling the first connection and the connection associated with the socket.

114. (New) The method of Claim 113, wherein

the decoupling occurs upon one of failure and disconnect of one of the first connection and the connection associated with the socket.

115. (New) The method of Claim 109, wherein

the first connection is transmitted through a first firewall program.

116. (New) The method of Claim 115, wherein

the first connection is created by a protocol daemon.

117. (New) The method of Claim 116, wherein

a second connection connects the protocol daemon to a first program, and the protocol daemon couples the first connection to the second connection.

118. (New) The method of Claim 117, wherein

the protocol daemon relays a data stream between the first connection and the second connection.

119. (New) The method of Claim 118, wherein

the first program provides the first security token.

120. (New) A method comprising:
creating a first connection to a first program;
receiving a first security token from the first program;
creating a second connection to a relay program;
providing the first security token to the relay program; and
upon successful creation of the second connection, coupling the first connection to the
second connection.

121. (New) The method of Claim 120, wherein
the second connection is transmitted through a firewall program.

122. (New) The method of Claim 120 further comprising:
relaying a data stream between the first connection and the second connection.

123. (New) The method of Claim 120, wherein
the first security token is one of a password, a network address, and a verification string.

124. (New) The method of Claim 120 further comprising:
terminating the first connection and the second connection.

125. (New) The method of Claim 120, wherein
the relay program compares the first security token with one or more security tokens
associated with one or more corresponding connections;
in response to said comparing, if the first security token and a security token associated
with a corresponding connection match,
coupling the second connection to the connection associated with the matching
security token; and
in response to said comparing, if none of the associated security tokens match the first
security token,
creating a socket associated with the second connection and the first security
token.

126. (New) The method of Claim 125, wherein
the connection associated with the matching security token is initiated by a second
program.

127. (New) The method of Claim 125, wherein
the relay program relays data between the second connection and the connection
associated with the matching security token.

128. (New) The method of Claim 121, wherein
a protocol daemon program does the creating the first connection, the creating the second
connection, the receiving the first security token from the first program, the
providing the first security token to the relay program, and the coupling the first
connection to the second connection.

129. (New) The method of Claim 128, wherein
the protocol daemon program and the firewall program are resident on a single computer.

130. (New) The method of Claim 128, wherein
the protocol daemon program and the first program are resident on a single computer.

131. (New) An apparatus comprising:
means for providing a plurality of sockets, wherein
each socket has an associated connection and an associated security token;
means for receiving a first connection and a first security token;
means for comparing the first security token with the associated security tokens;
in response to said comparing, if none of the associated security tokens match the first
security token, means for creating a socket associated with the first connection
and the first security token.

132. (New) The apparatus of Claim 131, wherein
a security token is one of a password, a network address, and a verification string.

133. (New) The apparatus of Claim 131 further comprising:
in response to said comparing, if the first security token and a security token associated
with one of the plurality of sockets match, means for coupling the first connection
to the connection associated with the socket.

134. (New) The apparatus of Claim 133 further comprising:
in response to said comparing, if none of the associated security tokens match the first
security token,
upon a determination that the first connection is not to be associated with a
socket, means for disconnecting the first connection.

135. (New) The apparatus of Claim 133, wherein the means for coupling the first
connection to the connection associated with the socket comprises:
means for relaying a data stream between the first connection and the connection
associated with the socket.

136. (New) The apparatus of Claim 133, wherein the means for coupling the first
connection to the connection associated with the socket comprises:
means for creating a single connection comprising the first connection and the connection
associated with the socket.

137. (New) The apparatus of Claim 133 further comprising:
means for decoupling the first connection and the connection associated with the socket.

138. (New) The apparatus of Claim 137, wherein
the decoupling occurs upon one of failure and disconnect of one of the first connection
and the connection associated with the socket.

139. (New) The apparatus of Claim 133, wherein
the first connection is transmitted through a first firewall program.

140. (New) An apparatus comprising:
means for creating a first connection to a first program;
means for receiving a first security token from the first program;
means for creating a second connection to a relay program;
means for providing the first security token to the relay program; and
means for coupling the first connection to the second connection upon successful creation
of the second connection.

141. (New) The apparatus of Claim 140 further comprising
means for transmitting the second connection through a firewall program.

142. (New) The apparatus of Claim 140 further comprising:
means for relaying a data stream between the first connection and the second connection.

143. (New) The apparatus of Claim 140, wherein
the first security token is one of a password, a network address, and a verification string.

144. (New) The apparatus of Claim 140 further comprising:
means for terminating the first connection and the second connection.

145. (New) The apparatus of Claim 140, wherein the relay program further comprises:
means for comparing the first security token with one or more security tokens associated
with one or more corresponding connections;
means for coupling the second connection to a connection associated with a security
token, if the first security token and the security token associated with the
corresponding connection match; and
means for creating a socket associated with the second connection and the first security
token, if none of the security tokens associated with the one or more
corresponding connections match the first security token.

146. (New) The apparatus of Claim 145, wherein
the connection associated with the matching security token is initiated by a second
program.

147. (New) The apparatus of Claim 145, wherein the relay program further comprises:
means for relaying data between the second connection and the connection associated
with the matching security token.

148. (New) A computer program product comprising:
signal bearing media bearing programming adapted to
provide a plurality of sockets, wherein
each socket has an associated connection and an associated security token;
receive a first connection and a first security token;
compare the first security token with the associated security tokens;
in response to said comparing, if none of the associated security tokens match the
first security token, create a socket associated with the first connection and
the first security token.

149. (New) The computer program product of Claim 148, wherein
a security token is one of a password, a network address, and a verification string.

150. (New) The computer program product of Claim 148 further comprising:
signal bearing media bearing programming adapted to
in response to said comparing, if the first security token and a security token
associated with one of the plurality of sockets match, couple the first
connection to the connection associated with the socket.

151. (New) The computer program product of Claim 150 further comprising:
signal bearing media bearing programming adapted to
in response to said comparing, if none of the associated security tokens match the
first security token,
upon a determination that the first connection is not to be associated with a
socket, disconnect the first connection.

152. (New) The computer program product of Claim 150, wherein the signal bearing
media bearing programming adapted to couple the first connection to the connection associated
with the socket further comprises:

signal bearing media bearing programming adapted to
relay a data stream between the first connection and the connection associated
with the socket.

153. (New) The computer program product of Claim 150, wherein the signal bearing media bearing programming adapted to couple the first connection to the connection associated with the socket further comprises:

signal bearing media bearing programming adapted to
create a single connection comprising the first connection and the connection
associated with the socket.

154. (New) The computer program product of Claim 150 further comprising:

signal bearing media bearing programming adapted to
decouple the first connection and the connection associated with the socket.

155. (New) The computer program product of Claim 154 further comprising:

signal bearing media bearing programming adapted to
decouple the first connection and the connection associated with the socket upon
one of failure and disconnect of one of the first connection and the
connection associated with the socket.

156. (New) The computer program product of Claim 150, wherein
the first connection is transmitted through a first firewall program.

157. (New) A computer program product comprising:
signal bearing media bearing programming adapted to
create a first connection to a first program;
receive a first security token from the first program;
create a second connection to a relay program;
provide the first security token to the relay program; and
couple the first connection to the second connection upon successful creation of
the second connection.

158. (New) The computer program product of Claim 157, wherein
the second connection is transmitted through a firewall program.
159. (New) The computer program product of Claim 157 further comprising:
signal bearing media bearing programming adapted to
relay a data stream between the first connection and the second connection.
160. (New) The computer program product of Claim 157, wherein
the first security token is one of a password, a network address, and a verification string.
161. (New) The computer program product of Claim 157 further comprising:
signal bearing media bearing programming adapted to
terminate the first connection and the second connection.
162. (New) The computer program product of Claim 157, wherein the relay program
further comprises:
signal bearing media bearing programming adapted to
compare the first security token with one or more security tokens associated with
one or more corresponding connections;
in response to said comparing, if the first security token and a security token
associated with a corresponding connection match,
couple the second connection to the connection associated with the
matching security token; and
in response to said comparing, if none of the associated security tokens match the
first security token,
create a socket associated with the second connection and the first security
token.
163. (New) The computer program product of Claim 162, wherein
the connection associated with the matching security token is initiated by a second
program.

164. (New) The computer program product of Claim 162, wherein the relay program further comprises:

signal bearing media bearing programming adapted to
relay data between the second connection and the connection associated with the
matching security token.